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NEWS OF THE DAY.

Yesterday's Proceedings of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Jefferson Davis Delivers a Dedication Speech at Montgomery, Ala.

Miscellaneous Items of Interest From all Portions of the Country.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, April 29.

The post office appropriation bill was taken up, Senator Beck having the floor. He said the provision under discussion had nothing to do with the postal service; but simply looked to the building up of our commercial relations. Appropriation bills should not include new legislation. He insisted that it was bad policy for the Republicans to force upon the administration provisions against which the present postmaster general and house all protested. The senator from Maine, (Mr. Frye) had sought to make the foreign mail provision a mandatory one, but the postmaster general had shown the committee that it would be so detrimental to public service that a majority of the committee had not been able to submit to it. The amendment proposed by the commission limited the postmaster general, however, to American vessels, and he was to make contracts for five years. Senators on the other side had dealt with emphasis on the spectacle of an active commercial people permitting their mails to be in the post-office day after day waiting for a slow subsidized vessel to sail while there was a swift vessel at the dock ready to carry mails at once. Under the proposed arrangement, the postmaster general might know that foreign ships which are ready to sail, would secure the delivery of a mail five or even ten days earlier than slow vessels, but he would be compelled to allow the mails to wait for days until the slow vessel was ready to sail. The matter was rendered more extraordinary when we remember that a swift vessel was willing to take the mail for one-tenth the cost of the delivery of a mail by the slow vessel, yet the postoffice department was required to see that the mails were carried with expedition. The object of this proposed amendment was to give a bounty to certain steamship lines in hope that trade could thus be built up. That was the matter not for the senate committee on commerce. The present bill was a post-office appropriation bill, not a bill to develop commerce. As to the effect of subsidies he quoted a variety of statistics to show subsidies have never increased our foreign commerce, not excepting the Pacific Mail subsidy which nobody was proud and of which nothing had come but corruption. Good administration in the postoffice department required that mails should be carried in the swiftest vessels. Ninety-one per cent of our mails would in any case be carried independently of this proposed subsidy, and would not cost one-half the amount required by this proposition to carry what would be added by the amendment. The object of the appropriation of this \$800,000 was not to benefit mails, but to put money into the pockets of a few men or corporations who own American vessels and had a monopoly of coastwise trade. It was an attempt to increase the appropriation beyond the amount which the postmaster general said he could well use. It was against the course recommended by the postmaster general and president. It was making the postoffice an instrumentality to subsidize favored individuals. Referring to American commerce, he said no one would go farther than he would to extend it, but he wanted it done in the proper way. Men might fairly differ as to the best mode of accomplishing an object. A ship was but a wagon, so far as its use was concerned; when a western man wanted to get his corn or cattle to Liverpool, what he would want to find out was, how much it would cost him to get it there. That will decide his profit. The ship costing \$200,000 would carry his freight cheaper than one costing \$300,000. That was an important element.

Senator Plumb asked whether it would not be an important element in the cost of transportation to have the haul shortened by having a man who made the wagon, ship or locomotive live nearer to the point where the grain was raised. That would give a farmer a market. Senator Beck then entered upon an elaborate discussion of the tariff, in which he was frequently interrupted by other senators, drawing from him in one instance the remark, "I would like to be permitted to finish a sentence once in a while." He insisted that when a man was compelled to sell in the cheapest market, he should be allowed to buy in the cheapest market. When the manufacturers had produced all that they could sell they encouraged strikes, and were glad when their workmen struck; that the price of their manufactures went up, and the workmen were starving. Coal operators met and resolved to produce no more coal till the prices went up and so discharged the men. At the conclusion of his remarks the

senate went into executive session and when the doors reopened adjourned.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, April 29.

Mr. Lanham, today, from the committee on coinage, weights and measures, reported a bill for the retirement and coinage of trade dollars. It provides that for six months after its passage trade dollars shall be received at their face value in payment of all dues to the United States and shall not be again paid out or issued in any other manner. Holders of trade dollars, on presentation of the same, may receive in change therefore an equal amount of standard silver dollars. The trade dollars so received by the United States treasury officials shall be transmitted to coinage mints and recoinied into standard silver dollars.

The house went into committee of the whole on the river and harbor appropriation bill, the pending amendment being one providing that the appropriation for the Missouri river shall be expended under the direction of the secretary of war, without the Missouri river commission supervision. The amendment was rejected, but it was agreed that a vote should be allowed on it in the house. Adjourned.

JEFFERSON DAVIS' SPEECH.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 29.—Ex-Governor Davis presented Mr. Davis in a brief speech. The scene as Mr. Davis arose and grasped the hand of his old attorney general was very affecting. It was some moments before he could proceed, and the cheers were again and again repeated. When there was sufficient quiet Mr. Davis said: It is deeply gratifying to me to be presented to you by one whom I leaned upon for advice when advice was wanted, whose stern qualities always made me sure that the judgment he was drawing was from the bottom of his heart; when you called him away the place was missing which he once filled, and I have always desired to lay my hand upon him again. This it was when we met the other night, after years of separation. Some people in the room gave a sardonic smile to see the two old men thus drawn together, but our hearts were young though our heads were old. Associated here with so many memories, thrilling and tender, I have felt that it was dangerous for me to attempt to speak to you as my heart would prompt me; not that I am always treasuring up bitterness against anyone, but I am admiring with love and admiration for our beloved people. To avoid, therefore anything which might be prompted by the fullness of my heart, for I believe I am a hardened in that condition of non-citizenship which leaves me very little of the man I once was. I have prepared notes that I might read which would not contain anything that would be constructive or hurtful. My friends, partners in joy and in sorrow, in trials and suffering, I have come to join you in the performance of a sacred task, to lay the foundation of a monument at the cradle of the confederate government, which shall commemorate the gallant sons of Alabama who died for their country; who gave their lives, a fee well offering, in defence of the rights of their services won in the war of revolution, state sovereignty, freedom and independence, which was left as an inheritance to their posterity forever. The compact to the union was formed not to destroy but to better preserve and perpetuate; and who so denies this cannot have attentively read the articles of confederation or the constitution of the United States. The latter was formed and designed better to effect the purpose of the first. It is not my purpose to dwell upon the events of the war; they were laid before you yesterday by that great soldier in so able a manner as to require no supplement from me. General John B. Gordon was a soldier who when our times seemed darkest at Petersburg, was selected by his chieftain, Lee, as the best man to lead the charge to retell the besieging army; to make a sortie and attack in the flank and reverse Grant's army. He failed, but his failure was due to the failure of his guides to carry him where he proposed to go. Again that man and gallant soldier was the one to whom Lee called at Appomattox when he wanted to know whether it was possible to break the line that obstructed his retreat toward the mountains of Virginia. He answered that it was impossible, that after four years of hard fighting his division was worn down to a fragment, it being impossible to break the line that obstructed the march to the mountains. Lee, like Washington, without knowing perhaps that Washington ever used the expression, said if he could reach the mountains of Virginia he could continue the war for twenty years, but when he found the line which obstructed his retreat could not be broken, he said there was nothing to do but to surrender. But he remembered, however, that Lee was not the man who contemplated surrender as long as he had the power to fight or retreat, and when he came to the last moment of surrender, he said to General Grant: "I have come to treat with you for the purpose of surrender, but, General Grant, understand, will surrender nothing that reflects upon the honor of my army." Grant, like a man, said he wanted nothing that would have that effect, and that he might draw up the papers himself. It is not my purpose either to discuss political questions, on which my views have elsewhere, and in other times been freely expressed, or to review the past except in vindicating the character and conduct of those to whom it is proposed to do honor on this occasion. That we may not be understood by such as are not wilfully blind, it may be proper to state in the foreground that we have no desire to feed the fires of sectional hate, while we do not seek to void whatever responsibility attaches to the belief in

the righteousness of our cause and the virtue of those who risked their lives to defend it. Revenge is not a sentiment of chivalrous people, and the apothegm that forgiveness is more easy to the injured than to those who inflict an injury, has never had a more powerful illustration than in the present attitude of the three sections towards one another. Policy in absence of magnanimity would have indicated that in a restored union of states there should have been a full restoration, equally and privileges and benefits as they had pre-existed; though this has not been the case, yet you have faithfully kept your resumed obligations as citizens, and in your impoverishment have borne equal burdens without equal benefits. I am proud of you, my countrymen, for this additional proof of your fidelity and pray God to give you grace to suffer and be strong. When your children's children shall ask what means this monument, there will be the enduring answer, it commemorates the lives of Alabama sons who died that you and your descendants should possess what your fathers in the war of independence left you. Alabama asserted this right of independence as belonging to every people. She found that the compact of the union had been broken on one side and was therefore annulled, and with others of a like mind proceeded to form a new confederation, organizing its powers in the language of the restoration of independence in such form as seemed to them most likely to effect their safety and happiness. This was not a revolution, because the state of the government having charge of all the domestic affairs, remained unchanged. To call it a revolution is a gross solecism, as sovereigns never rebel, and as only sovereigns can form a national league. If the states had not been sovereigns there could not have been a compact union. That the south did not anticipate, much less desire, war, is shown by the absence of preparation for it, as well as by the efforts made to receive a peaceful separation. The successful party always holds the defeated responsible for the war, but but when the passion shall have subsided and reason shall have resumed its dominion, it must be decided that the general government has no constitutional power to coerce a state, and that the state's right to repel invasion was a national constitutional right. From the early part of the century there had been a philosophy and threats of a dissolution of the union. These began at the north, on the question of preserving the balance of power and culminated during the war of 1812 in the decline of their trades. Though war was waged for the protection of their rights in course of the balance of power passed to the north, and that country had assumed the right of their constitutional rights to the union, decided to withdraw from it. This was without injury to their late associates. The right to withdraw was denied, and the north made ready for war. The distant mutterings of the storm were under food by the people of Alabama. Grey-haired men and beardless boys, all unprepared as they were, went forth to meet the storm ere it burst on their homes and their altars. It required no Demosthenes to arouse them to the duty of resisting invaders. No Patrick Henry to prepare them for the alternative of liberty or death. It was the people, not leaders, who resolved and acted. One sentiment inspired all classes. Yet I believe there were very few who did not regret the necessity which left them no alternative between fighting for their state or against it. Mother, wives and daughters, choking back their sobs, cheered them on the path of honor and duty. With fears and these patriotic men to war, advanced on many battlefields to look death in the face. Though Alabama, like Rhode, must mourn her children in death yet is her woe tempered by the glorious halo which surrounds their memory. For more than a century after his death Phillip Devalogne's name was born on the lips of those to whom he belonged, and when his name was called it was answered from the ranks. "Mort sui le champ de honneur." Very long would be the list which would contain the names of Alabama's sons whose valor and fidelity the same response. To name the few would be unjust to the many. They are all, therefore, left where they secured repose in the hearts of a grateful people. This monument will rest on the land for which they died, and point upward to the Father who knows the motives as well as deeds of his children and on at last resting in a land where justice may be rendered, which may have been denied them here. In conclusion permit me to say, though the memory of our glorious past must ever be dear to us, duty points to the present and future. Alabama having resumed her place in the union, be it yours to fulfill all obligations devolving on all good citizens, seeking to restore the general government to its pristine purity, and as best you may to promote the welfare and happiness of your common country. Citizens of Alabama and ladies, for to whatever side you may belong, it is your sex that has been true always in war and desolation. We hear of the valor and virtues and enduring names of the Spartan mothers, but tell me where in all history of nations was ever such a spectacle as was witnessed in the valley of the Shenandoah. How the tide of war ebbed and flowed, sometimes confederates retreated and sometimes pursued. Those people who claimed to be our brothers burned everything except fences. Ex-Governor Watts interrupting—"and they would have burned them had they not been stone." Mr. Davis turned and smilingly continued—"and why do you suppose they did not burn the fences because they were stone? and yet there never was a time when a body of troops

marched down that valley that the ladies did not hang out little Confederate flags from their windows and give bread to hungry soldiers. I have promised would not speak extemporaneously, and I will not do it. God bless you one and all. I love you all from the bottom of my heart, and give you thanks for your kindness.

A POOR PLAYER.

New York, April 29.—The second performance of Othello with Salvini and Booth in the principal roles at the Academy of Music last night was anything but a great presentation, owing to the unfortunate condition of the American actor. From the very first Booth appeared to be in very poor form; his reading of lines were uneven, and there were instances where he lost the thread of his lines. As the play continued his walk was ungainly and positively unsteady. It was not, however, until the third act in the great scene with Othello that the growing apprehension of the audience was completely confirmed. After Othello (Salvini) had thrown Iago to the ground in his bursts of wrath, he assisted Booth to his feet again without disturbing the apparently natural course of action. As Booth regained his feet Salvini let go his hand and the American actor lost his balance, he staggered backward and squatted down on the footlight rail. A few of the audience nearest the stage jumped forward, as it seemed the actor was about to fall into the orchestra. He recovered his self possession wonderfully, and continued through the act. His conduct called for some hissing, but the audience, pained, as it no doubt was, seemed to extend their sympathy by encoring him as usual. His entrances and exits from this point were timid, with a perceptible hesitancy. His great scene where Rodrigo is killed was played with great force, and he was warmly called before the curtain. He seemed to have recovered again, but in the last act he weakened and his closing scene was extremely weak, and with his hands tied behind his back, his condition was too painfully apparent to even an ordinary observer. The actors of the Salvini-Booth combination, who were assembled at the Academy of Music for the morning's rehearsal, discussed with much interest Booth's sudden manifestation of dizziness last evening. Booth reached the academy a few minutes after and said that he had been affected by an attack of vertigo. "Similar attacks have troubled me often before," he added as he passed in, "yesterday it was caused, I think, by a bilious attack."

WASHINGTON WAIFS.

Reverend Leonard, rector of St. John's Episcopal church here has been elected rector of New York to succeed President Arthur.

The new Chinese minister was formally presented to the president today by the secretary of state. He was attired in full court costume, and accompanied by three of his suit and an interpreter.

The treasury department has decided that Chinese seamen do not fall within the prohibitory provisions of the Chinese restriction act and therefore may be allowed to land temporarily in ordinary pursuit of their calling.

The house committee on foreign affairs today ordered a report on the Chinese indemnity bill and Mr. Morrow's Chinese restriction bill. The latter is precisely similar to the bill ordered reported last week and will contain amendments to which objections were made. It is the intention of the committee to have the indemnity bill first considered by the house.

The senate committee of commerce today voted to make a favorable report on the new Atlantic & Pacific ship railway bill, as substituting for the original ship bill of Captain Eads and such others as may be associated with him. They are created a body corporate, with the title of the Atlantic & Pacific ship railway company, with the power to issue capital stock and bonds not to exceed in the aggregate 100,000,000. The United States obligates itself to pay the company for a period of five years after the ship railway shall have been completed and tested any sums of money required to make two-thirds of the revenue of said company amount annually to the sum of \$5,500,000, provide the total liability of the government shall in no case exceed the sum of \$7,500,000. Obligation of the United States shall not attach until the railway shall have transported, in presence of a board of engineers, appointed by the president of the United States, loaded vessels weigh-

ing with her load not less than 6,000 tons, at an average speed of not less than six miles per hour, and place her in the harbor at the other side of the isthmus without injury to the vessel. At the end of one year thereafter the road is to be in a condition to transport vessels weighing with their cargoes not exceeding 7,000 tons, and the guarantee of the United States shall continue as long as the railway is kept in such repair as to admit of the transportation of vessels not exceeding the weight named.

FOREIGN FLASHES.

ATHENS, April 29.—The minister of war has resigned. His resignation is due to the fact he did not coincide with the action taken by his colleagues during his absence at the front. The powers have approved the action of their representatives here in presenting the ultimatum to the Greek government.

LONDON, April 29.—Baron Headley is declared a bankrupt. The Wilkinson mills at Beeston, Nottinghamshire, together with many adjoining houses, were burned; loss \$750,000.

MADRID, April 29.—There is serious dissension in the cabinet. The friction is due to the refusal of other ministers to yield to the demands of Senor Camacho, minister of finance, for economy in the budget, which he insists is necessary. A crisis is pending.

New Laws.

ALBANY, April 29.—The governor signed Mr. Carter's Saturday half holiday bill today. The standard gas bill became a law today without the governor's signature. The time having expired.

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THE FANCY GROCERS
OF LAS VEGAS.
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